

## HER CHILD'S STORY OF THE MURDER.

Three-Year-Old Georgie Tucker  
Tells How His Mother  
Was Strangled.

Four Men Who Were in the Neighborhood at the Time Placed  
Under Arrest.

TELLTALE FOOTPRINTS IN THE MUD.

Shoes of Michael Byrnes Fit Them, and He  
Is Held by the Police—James Lellis,  
Charles Meyers and a Tramp  
the Other Prisoners.

Mrs. Edmund T. Tucker, wife of an employe of the  
Hodgman Rubber Company, of Tuckahoe, was found  
strangled to death at her home in the outskirts of Yonkers  
about 9:30 p. m. Monday by her husband upon his re-  
turn from work. The dead woman's three-year-old son  
was also attacked by the unknown man who murdered  
his mother, and narrowly escaped sharing her fate.

Four arrests were made by the Yonkers  
police yesterday in the hopes that the  
making of them would lead to the discovery  
of the murderer of Mrs. Edmund T. Tucker.  
Three of the men taken into custody could  
hardly be considered as enemies in the  
quest for the murderer, but the fourth man  
must face a bit of circumstantial evidence  
which, vague as it is, may yet lead to the  
dixing of the crime upon him.

The crime itself, is unfortunately for the  
police who are trying to discover its per-  
petrator, of a character that upon its face  
bids fair to end in the escape of the man  
who committed it. It was accomplished  
practically without a witness, for the only  
living being present when the life of the  
woman passed out at the hands of the  
man who slowly strangled her to death was  
the three-year-old child of the woman her-  
self. Bright as the child is, he has been  
unable to clearly narrate the circumstances  
surrounding the crime. It is therefore hard-  
ly possible to patch his childish tale into  
a coherent story which can be used as a  
basis for investigation by the police.

The spot where Mrs. Tucker was mur-  
dered is an isolated and wild one. The  
Tucker homestead is a most unpretentious  
affair. It is situated upon the brow of a  
hill, along the base of which runs the high-  
way connecting Yonkers with White Plains.  
The house stands just within the city line  
of Yonkers, and the road which fronts it  
is called Central avenue. While it is thick-  
ly lined by houses for at least two miles  
from the centre of Yonkers, it is only dot-  
ted near the Tucker house by isolated  
dwellings.

The Tucker house is really nearer to  
Tuckahoe, on the Harlem Railroad, than it  
is to the city of Yonkers, for tiny Tuck-  
ahoe is only about a mile away by a road  
which branches from Central avenue.

This bit of geographical description is necessary  
to an understanding of the crime itself.  
WENT TO LIVE NEAR RELATIVES.  
In this wild spot Edmund T. Tucker and  
his wife have lived for two years. Mrs.  
Tucker's maiden name was Annie Lellis.  
She was the daughter of John Lellis, who  
lives at Purdy Station, on the Harlem  
River, near Katonah. She was a widow  
when she met Tucker and has a son now  
about fifteen years of age. He then lived  
at Lakeville, a section of Tuckahoe.

Tucker's paternal grandmother has for  
many years lived in a gray old farm  
house, on the White Plains road, or Central  
avenue, as it is now called. The family of  
William H. Lellis, a cousin of Mrs. Tuck-  
er, lived about a mile from old Mrs. Tuck-  
er, but still further toward White  
Plains, so it was proposed to the Tuckers  
to build a house in the vicinity of their  
relatives. Two years ago the present  
Tucker home was constructed. It is a one  
story and a half frame house, with gabled  
roof. It was placed half way up the side of  
a sloping hill, and is reached by a winding  
road from Central avenue. The house is  
painted yellow and is very small. Down-  
stairs there are only two or three rooms.  
A tiny little portico shades the front door,  
and opening upon the hillside further away  
from the road is a sort of storm house  
which projects a side door leading to a  
little entry way.

The interior of the house is fairly well  
furnished. There are a few cheap pictures  
on the walls. A rag carpet is on the floor  
and a big stove stands at one side. There  
is a lounge, a few chairs, a sofa, a sewing  
machine and a few of the nicknacks  
which go to make up a pleasant home,  
and it was a pleasant home for Edward  
Tucker when he walked home from work  
every night from Tuckahoe.

"GRANDMA" TUCKER'S STORY.  
This was the position of affairs on Mon-  
day morning when Edmund Tucker started  
away early to his work. At noon Mrs. Tuck-  
er and her three-year-old child, Georgie,  
left their home and walked to the home  
of Mrs. William H. Lellis, where they  
dined. This point is established by Mrs.  
Lellis, who says that after dinner Mrs.  
Tucker and her child remained until a few  
moments before 3 o'clock in the afternoon.  
Then the couple walked together home-  
ward, and that practically is the last seen  
of Mrs. Tucker alive. From this point the  
tangled story of the George Tucker and  
a few bits of collateral statements tell all  
that is now known of the murder.

Mrs. Tucker and Georgie certainly entered  
their home at a few minutes before 3  
o'clock. At 2:50 Mrs. Mary Tucker, or as  
all of her relatives call her, "Grandma  
Tucker," happened to be looking out of her  
window up central avenue toward her  
grandson's house.

"I saw a man walking up the road toward  
Edmund's house," she said yesterday. "It  
was about ten minutes of 3 o'clock. The  
man carried a basket. He wore a slouch  
hat and long black overcoat, and carried a  
cane. I saw him enter the house. Then I  
turned away and went on about my work."

This, therefore, in all probability estab-  
lishes the entrance of the murderer into  
the Tucker homestead. What happened  
within that home can only be gathered  
from little Georgie. The child was found  
yesterday at the home of his great grand-  
mother. He is an auburn-haired little fel-  
low, and was neatly dressed in black giv-  
ing him little gown, with tiny black shoes.  
On his shoulders was a little gray jacket, and  
his fat little legs were incased in black  
stockings. He is a bashful boy, and did  
not seem to be able to tell much of the sad  
story of his mother's murder.

LITTLE GEORGIE'S VERSION.  
"Man—big man," he lisped, "asked mam-  
ma for change. Man hit mamma. Mam-  
ma was playin' wif drum. Man hit  
Georgie, too."

At this the poor child burst into a tor-

rent of tears, and no more could be gathered  
from him just then.

Dr. Charles A. Miles, of Yonkers, one of  
Westchester's coroners, managed later to  
extract a little more from the frightened  
child. From the boy's story, Mrs. Tucker  
at a few moments after 3 o'clock on Mon-  
day, had settled down to her sewing when  
a man, probably a tramp, knocked at the  
front door and asked for money and food.  
Georgie was playing with his drum and a  
little two-wheeled cart. Near the cart lay  
a child's hammer. It is evident that Mrs.  
Tucker refused the caller money, and that  
he grasped her by her throat, and then be-  
came a fearful struggle in the parlor, which  
terminated half way between the parlor  
and a hallway leading to the storm door.

Then the murderer turned his attention  
to Georgie and dealt him two terrible  
blows upon the head and neck. The blow  
which made a deep bruise upon the child's  
forehead over the right eye, extending to  
the ear, was probably made by the cane  
the man carried. The second blow, behind  
the left ear, was probably made by the  
boy's hammer, as it is exactly circular in  
form. Georgie must have been stunned, as  
the next link in the chain does not include  
him.

At 3:30 o'clock the sequence of the tale  
is taken up by two children of the Lellis.  
They attend School No. 5, about a mile  
away from the scene of the murder, near  
Yonkers, and on their return in the after-  
noon are in the habit of stopping at the  
Tuckers to get some empty milk cans, as  
the family get their supply of milk from the  
Lellis. The children looked into a  
window which opens out on the hillside  
of the house. They noticed that the carpet  
in the parlor into which they gazed was  
disarranged. They saw that a centre table,  
which they know usually stood in the  
centre of the room, was overturned, and

that Georgie Tucker's drum and other toys  
lay in a heap in the centre of the room.  
They could not see Georgie, for he prob-  
ably lay in a position where he was  
screened by the overturned table, but they  
did notice that the door leading to the  
storm house was closed, an unusual pro-  
ceeding. The front door was locked tight-  
ly, which appears to indicate that the  
murderer had securely locked it after leav-  
ing the house.

MRS. LAWRENCE SAW A MAN.  
The last absolute fact known is contrib-  
uted by Mrs. Mary Lawrence, who lives  
still further up Central avenue. She says  
that at 5:30 o'clock she saw a man with a  
slouch hat and dark overcoat jump over  
a stone fence about 150 feet from the rear  
of the Tucker home, and start up Central  
avenue toward White Plains.

Coroner Miles, after learning all these  
facts, saw little Georgie Tucker again and  
managed to learn a fact or two more. He  
reached his conclusions by an object lesson.  
He showed the boy a derby hat and a slouch

hat, and asked which had the man worn.  
The child hesitatingly picked out the  
slouch hat. The child was then asked  
whether the man had hair on his face. He  
nodded in affirmation.

"Did he have on shoes?"  
"Yubber boots," lisped the tot.  
Upon this vague description the Yonkers  
police arrested a man who had whiskers  
and wore rubber boots and a slouch hat.  
The man said his name was Joseph Sutte,  
that he was born in Switzerland and was  
fifty-eight years old. "Policeman George  
Carroll found the man walking along the  
roadway near the Tucker house. The man  
was a tramp and can speak little English.  
He denied all knowledge of the crime."

TRACED BY FOOTPRINTS.  
Policeman George Cooly made the most  
important discovery of the day. He found  
leading from the storm door of the Tucker  
house in the direction of the stone fence  
where Mrs. Lawrence saw a man at 5:30  
o'clock on the afternoon of the murder, a  
number of footprints. They were plainly  
marked out in the soft earth, and were as  
far apart as to indicate that they had been  
made by a man when running. The police-  
man carefully walked up several of the  
tracks with stones, for he had an idea  
that the man seen by Mrs. Lawrence might  
have made the tracks. They were peculiar  
tracks. They were made by a light-soled  
shoe, one of which had a round, punctured  
hole in the centre of the sole. The other  
shoe was run down at the heel, so that  
the nails in it left distinct tracks. This

was easily seen, as the frost of early yester-  
day morning had made the impression as  
solid as if it had been plaster of paris.

In casting about for every person in the  
vicinity of the murder at the time it was  
undoubtedly committed. Policeman Cooly  
learned that three men had been cutting  
roots to be made into canes in a little  
clump of woods about a mile from the  
Tucker house, nearer White Plains. He ar-  
rested the three men. They gave the names  
of Michael Byrnes, James Lellis and  
Charles Meyers. Lellis said that he was  
thirty-four years old, was born in West-  
chester County, and lived in Eighth street,  
Williamsbridge. He claimed to be a  
contractor in a small way. The second man  
said he was Charles Meyers, and was  
twenty-three years old and a carpenter.  
He also claimed to live in Williamsbridge.

It was also learned from the men that  
they have daily, for the past month, been  
in the habit of driving a wagon and one  
horse from Williamsbridge to the woods  
near the scene of the murder, where they  
would gather roots, returning homeward  
in the early evening.

Usually the two men were unaccompanied,  
but on the day of the murder they  
had a companion in Michael Byrnes, thirty-  
five years old, a laborer, who also lives  
at Williamsbridge. Byrnes said that he  
used to keep a grocery store, but lately  
had been doing nothing.

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Tucker died. I reached her body about 9  
p. m. on Monday. Rigor mortis was then  
quite marked, but at 8:30 p. m., when Dr.

THE CORONER PUZZLED.  
I have examined Byrnes, Lellis and  
Meyers carefully, and while they disagree a  
trifle as to the time they left the woods to  
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man Cooly examined the shoes he found  
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which was plainly marked in the footprints  
near the Tucker house. The heel of the  
other shoe, too, was run down so that  
the nails plainly showed.

Coroner Miles and Policeman Cooly placed  
the shoes within the footprints, and found  
that they fitted exactly.

The police say that while this bit of cir-  
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and all the other prisoners for the present.

While no suspicion attaches to the dead  
woman's husband, it was thought best yester-  
day to ascertain his exact whereabouts  
during the hours preceding and following  
the murder. Foreman Williams, of the  
Hodgman Rubber Company, at Tuckahoe,  
where Tucker works, said that he left the  
works at 5:30 o'clock, on his way home.  
Tucker then called on Mrs. Thomas Dunn  
and Mrs. Harry Wright, friends of his wife.  
Both were neighbors when the Tuckers lived  
at Lakeville.

Mrs. White says that Tucker left her  
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Then he called at the Tuckahoe post office  
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Just before Christmas a tramp called at  
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Miss Carrie Odell, while on her way to a  
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the shoes within the footprints, and found  
that they fitted exactly.

The police say that while this bit of cir-  
cumstantial evidence is not sufficient to  
connect Byrnes with the murder absolute-  
ly, yet it is of startling character enough  
to warrant a careful search into the man's  
past career. That Byrnes was near the  
scene of the murder within the hours that  
all the evidence shows it was committed  
is proved, they think. He denies that he  
was nearer than the woods already de-  
scribed. It was decided to hold Byrnes  
and all the other prisoners for the present.

While no suspicion attaches to the dead  
woman's husband, it was thought best yester-  
day to ascertain his exact whereabouts  
during the hours preceding and following  
the murder. Foreman Williams, of the  
Hodgman Rubber Company, at Tuckahoe,  
where Tucker works, said that he left the  
works at 5:30 o'clock, on his way home.  
Tucker then called on Mrs. Thomas Dunn  
and Mrs. Harry Wright, friends of his wife.  
Both were neighbors when the Tuckers lived  
at Lakeville.

Mrs. White says that Tucker left her  
house a few moments before 6 o'clock.  
Then he called at the Tuckahoe post office  
and at about fifteen minutes of 6 started for  
home. According to Tucker, when he  
reached his home, a few minutes after 6  
o'clock, he found the front door locked and  
the house in darkness. Then he walked to  
the home of his grandmother, expecting to  
find his wife and child there. When he  
found that his family was not there, Tucker  
and his father, who lives with "Grandma"  
Tucker, hurried back, to find the body of the  
murdered woman.

All the friends of the Tuckers united in  
saying that they lived a happy life, and  
that no quarrels marred their happiness.  
Both were neighbors the Yonkers Episcopal  
Church.

BOTHERED BY TRAMPS.  
The roads near the Tucker home for a  
long time have been tramp infested. Hold-  
ups have been frequent. Only a few weeks

ago a driver for a baker in Tuckahoe was  
"held up" by tramps and robbed of \$30.

Just before Christmas a tramp called at  
the home of the Odells, near the Tucker  
homestead, and demanded money. Mrs.  
Odell drew a revolver and threatened to  
kill the fellow, and he hurriedly ran away.  
Miss Carrie Odell, while on her way to a  
skating pond near by in the early evening,  
was also "held up" by two tramps a few  
weeks ago. Miss Odell carries a revolver,  
and she fired one shot at the tramps, and  
they ran away at top speed. Nearly every  
woman around Tuckahoe and in the out-  
skirts of Yonkers carries a revolver. There  
was one in the Tucker household on Mon-  
day, but Mrs. Tucker evidently was over-  
powered before she had time to grasp it.  
Coroner Miles is sure that robbery was  
the motive for the murder.

"What makes the murder more dastard-  
ly," said the coroner, "is that two lives  
were sacrificed when Mrs. Tucker died. I  
have carefully followed every bit of tangi-  
ble evidence or clue, even carefully exam-  
ining the entire interior of the Tucker  
house by candle light, but I am forced to  
say that the mystery is as dark to-day as  
it was when Mrs. Tucker's body was first  
discovered."

THE CORONER PUZZLED.  
I have examined Byrnes, Lellis and  
Meyers carefully, and while they disagree a  
trifle as to the time they left the woods to  
go home, they all make it between 4 and  
4:30 p. m. This is a point in their favor,  
as Mrs. Lawrence saw the man who prob-  
ably made those footprints at least an hour  
later.

"It is impossible to tell just when Mrs.  
Tucker died. I reached her body about 9  
p. m. on Monday. Rigor mortis was then  
quite marked, but at 8:30 p. m., when Dr.

When he was taken to Police Headquar-  
ters, in Yonkers, he was carefully exam-  
ined. In the first place, his face was  
covered with whiskers, and he wore a  
slouch hat. On his feet were a pair of No.  
7 tan shoes, old and worn. When Police-  
man Cooly examined the shoes he found  
that the sole of one bore the circular hole  
which was plainly marked in the footprints  
near the Tucker house. The heel of the  
other shoe, too, was run down so that  
the nails plainly showed.

Coroner Miles and Policeman Cooly placed  
the shoes within the footprints, and found  
that they fitted exactly.

The police say that while this bit of cir-  
cumstantial evidence is not sufficient to  
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